

Message Text

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12

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 MC-02 DRC-01 /054 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9146

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USAF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1188

FOR AMBASSADOR AKINS FROM STOLTZFUS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: FMS KUWAIT: PROPOSAL FOR F-5 STOP-OVER IN KUWAIT

1. AS YOU MAY KNOW, WE ARE NOT FARING TOO WELL AT MOMENT IN OUR EFFORTS SELL F-5S AND A-7S TO KUWAITIS WHO SEEM DAZZLED BY F-1 AND JAGUAR. HOWEVER, SINCE KUWAITIS HAVE NOT YET SIGNED ANY AIRCRAFT CONTRACTS YET, AND THERE IS PROBABLY PERIOD OF HAGGLING OVER PRICES REMAINING AHEAD OF US, WE ARE CASTING ABOUT FOR WAYS OF GETTING OURSELVES BACK IN THE BALLGAME. OUR CHANCES ARE DICEY AT BEST BUT IT STILL WORTH ANOTHER TRY OR TWO.

2. DURING RECENT CALL BY GENERAL SUMNER OF DOD/ISA AND CHUSMTM GEN HILL AND ME ON MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD, SUBJECT OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT CAME UP. GEN HILL EXPLAINED ADVANTAGES OF F-5 IN AIR SUPERIORITY ROLE AND STRESSED EASE OF MAINTENANCE. IT EVIDENT SHAIKH SAAD'S IGNORANCE OF F-5 WAS MONUMENTAL. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ENTIRELY UNINTERESTED.

3. IT SEEMED OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE MISSED SO I ASKED SHAIKH SAAD
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IF HE WOULD LIKE TO SEEM SOME F-5S, PERHAPS DURING A STOP-OVER

WHICH MIGHT BE ARRANGED FOR SAUDI F-5ES BEING DELIVERED SAUDI ARABIA CURRENTLY FROM IRAN. SHAIKH SAAD SAID "WHY NOT?", BUT THEN HE WONDERED OUT LOUD WHETHER SAUDIS WOULD WANT THEIR NEW PLANES SHOWN OFF IN KUWAIT BEFORE THEY EVEN ARRIVED IN COUNTRY. I REMINDED SAAD THAT SAUDI MINDEF SULTAN HAD URGED GOK TO BUY F-5S AS WELL AS OTHER US EQUIPMENT WHEN HE VISITED KUWAIT YEAR OR MORE AGO, AND I SAID I DIDN'T PERSONALLY THINK SULTAN WOULD OBJECT, BUT THAT THIS POINT SHOULD OF COURSE BE CHECKED OUT.

4. DO YOU AND GEN HILL THINK SAUDIS WOULD OBJECT TO TOUCH-DOWN HERE IN KUWAIT OF SOME F-5ES BOUND TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM IRAN? I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE FOUR F-5ES FOR SAUDI ARABIA IN IRAN RIGHT NOW, AS WELL AS TWO F-5BS FOR JORDAN. SCENARIO WOULD CALL FOR SHAIKH SAAD, THE AIR FORCE OFFICERS AND SEVERAL OF US FROM THE EMBASSY TO BE AT AIRPORT FOR THE EVENT. WELL-STAGED ARRIVAL OF THE FOUR F-5ES, OR PREFERABLY ALL SIX PLANES, AND STAY FOR BRIEF INSPECTION COULD BE QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

5. IDEALLY, SAUDI MINDEF SULTAN WOULD CONVEY HIS NON-OBJECTION DIRECTLY TO KUWAITI MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD -- IF HE COULD BE INDUCED TO DO SO.

6. APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION TO IDEA.
STOLTZFUS

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